Episode 5- Mike Gives Away 30 Bucks to Derrick Brown

scene 1- int. bryana's apartment, 3PM, october 31st

I knock at the door and PHIL comes and lets me in. TRAVIS is there, as is BRYANA.

phil

Hey, come on in.

MIKE

Alrighty. What's up everyone?

travis

MIKE CHENOWETH, how DO you do?

MIKE

I am excellent, Travis Alfonso. Do you concur, doctor?

TRAVIS

Doctor!

We shake hands.

MIKE

Excellent. Hey, Bry, how are you

bryana

Hey, I'm good.

MIKE

Good, good.

BRYANA

I'll be right back, I just gotta grab my compy.

BRY goes to her bedroom.

MIKE

Phil, your sister thinks I'm crazy!

PHIL

No she doesn't. I told her you were joking. Remember, she hangs out with boring assholes like Henry, so she's not used to stuff like that.

MIKE

Still, you'd think she'd be used to weird people. She's twins with YOU, after all.

PHIL

Yeah, well... I sucked up all the weirdness I guess.

MIKE

I guess.

BRY comes back with her laptop.

BRYANA

So Mike, how's your invisible girlfriend?

MIKE

She's awesome, thanks! We had a very interesting night last night.

TRAVIS

Sexually?

MIKE

Well, of course... but that's not even the REAL story.

BRYANA

Wait... how do you have sex with her?

MIKE

...I put my penis into her vagina. How do you have sex with YOUR boyfriend?

PHIL

Yeah, seriously Bry. How could you not know that?

TRAVIS

Why are you so stupid?

PHIL

Sheesh, what a moron.

MIKE

What are we, back in 2nd grade or something?

BRYANA

Shut up, I hate you all. I hate everyone.

MIKE

Eh, no you don't. (I hope...)

intro sequence!!!

phil

So? What's the story from last night?

BRYANA

Yeah, why didn't you come over?

MIKE

Well, I was on my way over, but that's when this thing happened...

scene 2- ext. s. university, october 31st, midnight

A bunch of dumb assholes are crowding the bar areas in dumb costumes and shouting and just being unbearable. I'm trying to walk through it all with MEL sitting on my head.

MIKE

I hate Halloween.

melissa

Why? People get to get dressed up and be whatever they want. What's wrong with that?

MIKE

Because apparently everyone wants to be a drunken, shouting moron. This "holiday" is just another corporate-sponsored orgy of idiocy to distract people from the hollow piece of shit they call "life".

MELISSA

Sheesh, what's your problem? Did someone give you an apple with a razor blade last time you went trick or treating?

MIKE

No, I just... well, look at all these disgusting people!

MELISSA

Oh, quit being such a judgmental Jerry. Have a couple drinks, chat it up, you might find someone cool...

dumb girl

I lost my bedazzle glasses! My bedazzle glasses!

I give MELISSA a "told you so" look.

MELISSA

Well... she's cute. And drunk, probably easy...

MIKE

Ew! Not even. Besides, this setting does NOT put me in the mood. Now, maybe if you take your shirt off...

MELISSA

Well obviously, but this is a prime location for finding OTHER women who'll do that. Look Mike, not everyone is a disgusting asshole/bitch, maybe you'll find someone who-

pops

Excuse me sir, can I have a moment of your time?

I stop and give him my attention. MELISSA poofs away.

SCENE 1 AGAIN

MIKE

That's about the time that I ran into Derrick Brown, AKA Pops, age 51 (or 52).

BRYANA

Or 52?

MIKE

Allow me to explain...

SCENE 2 AGAIN

POPS

Listen, man, I'm really sorry to pull you away from your plans. I know you got Halloween parties and hangouts to go to, but I'm just asking for a couple minutes of your time. Alright, so here's the deal, man. My name's Derrick Brown, but I'm known in the community as Pops. I'm 51 years old, I was born and raised in Biloxi, Mississippi. And the reason that I've pulled you aside is this... my wife, the love of my life for over 30 years now, has been really sick lately. A couple years ago she was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. And I'm bein' honest with you man. So she needs medication in order to balance her insulin levels. But here's the problem. Normally that kind of thing would be covered by our insurance, but we've fallen on hard times. I don't have to tell you about all the problems with the economy lately. You're a U of M student I'm assuming, you're a smart guy.

MIKE (V.O.)

Flatter me. Good tactics.

POPS

So anyways here's what I'm asking you, man. I've been out here since about 8PM on this cold evening asking people for just a little bit of money so that I can give my wife her medication. And I'm bein' honest with you, man.

MIKE (v.o.)

Are you now?

POPS

So here's where I'm at right now. I just need $18 to buy her medication, and if you have anything to give, then I'll be that much closer to buying it. Anything at all you can give I'll take, but...

I pull out my wallet.

scene 3- int. mike's imagination, october 29th, ???

MEL and I sitting in my imagination place, in like a debate-type setup.

MIKE

Welcome to Mike's Moral Compass, where we discuss and debate all ethical dilemmas that Mike faces. Mike Chenoweth here, alongside the lovely Melissa Mouffette.

MELISSA

Always glad to be here, Mike.

MIKE

I bet you are! So the first topic of the day, I meet this (presumably) homeless dude who tells me he needs $18 so he can buy medication for his wife. I have a $10 and a $20 in my wallet. What should I do?

MELISSA

I would go ahead and give him the $20. I mean, it's obvious that this is quite a story and a little hard to believe, but I don't have any reason to believe he's lying to you.

MIKE

Oh, you don't? What about the multiple times that he insisted that "I'm bein' honest with you, man"? In my experience, when somebody keeps insisting that what they're saying is true without any proof beyond that, I have my doubts.

MELISSA

Fair point, but do you think it's possible that the only reason he says that is that he's used to people NOT believing his true story?

MIKE

Okay, but say he isn't telling the truth. If I give him $20, where will that money go? If he's an alchie or an addict, I don't want to give him money for that shit.

MELISSA

As far as I know, I have no reason to believe that he will. I don't know this man and I'm willing to give him the benefit of the doubt. Besides, he probably needs that money more than you do. What were you going to use it on?

MIKE

I can think of a few things. Food, gas... alcohol...

MELISSA

Mike... you can't even buy alcohol yet.

MIKE

Yeah, but I got people who can... like my dad...

MELISSA

Give him some money.

MIKE

Alright...

scene 1 again

TRAVIS

So then what?

MIKE

I gave him $10.

PHIL

So is that the end of the story? How did that keep you from coming over?

MIKE

It didn't! That was just the first few minutes. Here's what happened next: I give him the money, then...

SCENE 2 Again

I give POPS a $10 bill.

MIKE

Here's a little something. Hope it helps.

POPS

Alright, well... I'll see if I can find the other $8 from someone else.

MIKE (V.O.)

Hey, you're welcome, asshole.

MIKE

Alright, I have to go. Well, good luck.

POPS

Alright, man. I hope so too. Because I'm so close now, and I've been out here since 8PM, I'm cold, I'm tired... feel my hands, man! Feel how cold they are.

He takes my hands and rubs his cold hands against them.

POPS

I can't even afford a pair of gloves. I'm completely broke. But with just 8 more dollars I can get the medication and spend the night with my wife at the homeless shelter. And I'm bein' honest with you, man.

MIKE (V.O.)

The more you say it...

POPS

Let me tell you a story before you go, man. You might even learn something from it. This is the story of a man born 51 years ago who grew up in Biloxi, Mississippi. He was a fantastic athlete, a three sport star in football, basketball, and baseball. Had scholarship offers from a bunch of different schools, and was eventually all set to go to Florida State for baseball.

MIKE (V.O.)

Dude, you're half my size. You'd better have been fast.

POPS

Can you guess who that guy was?

MIKE

Was it you?

POPS

No, it was Phil Boos!!!

SCENE 1 AGAIN

PHIL

Wait... what?

MIKE

Just wanted to be sure you were paying attention. Anyways...

SCENE 2 AGAIN

POPS

So here's the thing though. I didn't grow up with much money. And college is expensive, as I'm sure you know. I had a scholarship to FSU, but that didn't pay for all of it. So I joined the ROTC and after college, I went into the military. I spent a few years abroad, fought in the war-

MIKE (V.O.)

What war?

POPS

Then when I left the service... there wasn't anything for me. I'm being honest with you, man. Stay in school, don't join the military. I thought I'd have coverage for this sort of thing... few years later, here I am. And my wife was working at Eastern Michigan for years, then she got released without tenure...

MIKE (V.O.)

Why have I not left yet?

POPS

so we're just trying to get by one day at a time. And I'm bein' honest with you, man. And I'm just SO CLOSE to getting the rest of this money so that I can get her her medicine. I wouldn't lie to you, I wouldn't have kept you from your evening plans if I didn't absolutely need this money.

MIKE (V.O.)

Oh, alright. If it'll get you to leave me alone...

I pull out my wallet.

POPS

I'm 52 years old, man, I'm cold, I'm tired, I just want somewhere warm to sleep-

MIKE (V.O.)

Wait, what???

scene 3 again

MIKE

And bit of breaking news. A shocking revelation, as this man "Pops" has just contradicted himself on an essential detail. This has put the validity of his entire story in serious jeopardy. Melissa, how do you react to all this?

MELISSA

Well, Mike, I'm not sure that his age is an essential detail to this story. I mean, it's his wife that needs the money-

MIKE

Right, that's the story. But come on now, most people should know their age, right? And isn't it funny that he added a year right as I took out my wallet? Something smells.

MELISSA

Hey, when you get up there in years, it's hard to keep 'em all straight. It's different when you're 20, but around 45 or so...

MIKE

Oh, are you speaking from experience?

MELISSA

I dunno, maybe!!!

MIKE

Well, true as that may be, it wouldn't be a problem to me if he didn't insist on reminding me that he's 51 (or is it 52) as a way of establishing credibility. I mean, the fact that he keeps bringing it up makes this all sound like this is some grand story that he memorized to doop potential fools like me.

MELISSA

Well... maybe he just misspoke...

MIKE

Or MAYBE he just gave himself away.

MELISSA

Alright, well I guess you can cut your losses and walk away.

MIKE

Walk away? I should ask for my $10 back!

MELISSA

Mike... don't you think that with all the crazy, stupid things that happen in this world that it just might be possible that he's telling the truth and he made an honest mistake?

MIKE

It's possible, but it's... not.

MELISSA

It's not... right. Well, what do you want to do?

MIKE

FIND OUT, after these messages!

MELISSA

How much time until we're back on the air?

MIKE

Depends... 2-3 minutes maybe?

MELISSA

Good enough!

SHE POUNCES ON ME!!! COMMERCIAL BREAK TIME! We come back all rustled up and wired.

MIKE

Alright... so... let's see what I did.

MELISSA

But first, Phil has a question.

SCENE 1 AGAIN

PHIL

So wait, how did you catch that little inconsistency?

mike

How could I not have? He'd brought up his age at least three times, he made it an important part of his story. And if he can't keep such an apparently important yet simple fact like that straight,throws the rest of his story into question, doesn't it?

TRAVIS

Yeah, fuck that, that's why I never give that much money to homeless people. I would have taken my money back!

PHIL

I would have become the mad king and driven them insane!

MIKE

Like that guy in Pontiac?

TRAVIS

Wait, what guy?

PHIL

After one of our shows last summer, a guy came up and asked me for money. I looked at him and I said... dude, we're struggling musicians. You need to think about who you ask for money before you do. But he wouldn't leave us alone so we just started walking in circles saying things like, "I'm going to London to see the queen!"

MIKE

Well, maybe if you were there last night I would have done that. There were points when I started walking off and he wouldn't let me!

BRYANA

But you walked away after you caught his slip-up, right?

MIKE

...Well...

scene 2 again

I have my wallet out and POPS is watching.

POPS

I just need a little more money.

MIKE (V.O.)

Put your wallet away.

POPS

I'm so close, and my wife really needs this medication.

MIKE (V.O.)

No, don't give him any more. He's lying!

POPS

And I love her with all my heart, man. You've got a woman, right? You'd do anything for her, wouldn't you?

MEL poofs in.

MELISSA

Yes, he would.

MIKE

Hey, what are you-

She takes my hands and makes me give him the 20. I groan.

MELISSA

I'll pay you back later.

MIKE

You don't have any money-

MELISSA

Then I'll just pay you back some other way. Think about it.

She kisses my cheek and disappears.

POPS

Thank you so much, man. This'll be more than enough. You've really given me and my wife a blessing, you know that?

SCENE 1 AGAIN

BRYANA

You gave him $30???

MIKE

That's the most money I've ever given to a homeless guy. What I SHOULD have done was given him the $20 and been on my way, but I didn't want to give him all that money at first. But then I got suckered into his story... if nothing else he deserved some money for telling a compelling story.

PHIL

But it was a lie, wasn't it? I bet he didn't even have a wife.

MIKE

Well see that's where the story gets interesting.

SCENE 2 AGAIN

pops

So listen man, can I borrow your phone for just one second? I want to call my wife and tell her about the man that God sent to bless us this evening.

SCENE 1 AGAIN

BRYANA

You gave him your phone? No way!

MIKE

Yes way! If he was thinking about running off with my phone I could have easily chased him down. He may have been a superathlete back in the day, but I doubt that he could outrun me at age 51 (or 52).

scene 2 again

POPS has my phone and is calling the shelter. Someone picks up.

POPS

Hey, could you put Beelzebub on the line please?

MIKE (V.O.)

I don't remember her name...

POPs

Hey, honey. I've got some great news. We've been given a blessing this evening by a young man who gave us money for your medication. (beat.) His name is... what's your name, son?

MIKE

Mike.

POPS

His name is Mike and he gave us $30. I only asked for $18 but he gave us $30. (beat.) I'm calling you on his phone. (beat.) You want to talk to him? (beat.) Alright, here you go.

He hands the phone to me, I take it tentatively.

MIKE

Hello?

POP'S WIFE says some incoherent thank you thing.

MIKE

It was no problem. (beat.) You're very welcome. (beat.) I'm sorry, I didn't catch that? (beat.) Okay. (beat.) I hope it helps. (beat.) Goodbye.

I hang up my phone and begin to put it away.

MIKE

Alright, well, I should be-

POPS

Hold on, one thing before you put your phone away. My wife and I are going to be getting a phone. So on the 6th, NO LATER than the 7th, I'm going to have it activated. SO before you go I want to give it to you. The number is...

MIKE (V.O.)

I'm not going to give away his number on national television.

POPS

Alright man. Now, any time after the 7th give that number a call. I was raised in Biloxi, so I'm a believer in hospitality. So if you ever need any favors done, or if there's some way I can pay you back. Even if it's just for lunch some time or something, any way I can pay you back.

MIKE

That's not necessary.

POPS

Alright, well, keep it just in case you change your mind. And hey, if you happen to see me around campus or around town, don't hesitate to come up to me. I'd like to repay you any way I can.

MIKE

Alright I'll keep that in mind. I should get going though.

POPS

Alright man, have a good halloween. Remember, the 6th, no later than the 7th, that phone will be activated.

MIKE

Right. I just have one question though.

POPS

Anything, man.

MIKE

How old did you say you were?

POPS

51 years old, born in Biloxi, Mississippi.

MIKE

Right. Happy Halloween.

SCENE 1 AGAIN

BRYANA

So was that really his wife on the phone?

MIKE

I have no idea. I couldn't make out a thing she was saying. So if it wasn't it was someone who was in on his scam, though I don't know why he'd have me talk to her after the fact.

PHIL

So was he telling the truth then?

MIKE

I don't know. I think even if he was that he embellished some facts, or maybe he couldn't keep them all straight... I don't know. Either way, I think he deserved a little halloween treat.

TRAVIS

So clever.

MIKE

I KNOW I AM!!! Anyways, I abbreviated a good amount of that story. It started around 12, I didn't get away from him until like 12:30. It was around that time that I called YOU.

SCENE 2 AGAIN

I'm right outside BRY's apartment calling PHIL. He picks up.

PHIL

Hello...?

MIKE

Hey, I'm outside.

PHIL

Oh... you're here? We're all kind of done hanging out. Everyone went home and... Travis and I are pretty much passed out.

MIKE

Oh, are you serious? I told you I was coming over!

PHIL

Yeah but... you took so long. I thought you weren't coming over.

MIKE

No, no... I was on my way, but then... well, it's an interesting story. I guess I'll tell you about it later.

PHIL

Alright, sorry man. I'll see you tomorrow?

MIKE

Sure. Have a good night.

I hang up and begin walking home.

SCENE 1 AGAIN

MIKE

So that's my story!

TRAVIS

I love the way you tell stories, Mike.

PHIL

Yeah, you should write that down and get it published!

MIKE

Actually, I've got an idea of what to do with it...

scene 4- int. mike's living room, october 31st, 2PM

I'm writing stuff on my computer.

MELISSA

So what're you writing?

MIKE

Little notes from tonight. I think it'll be a good episode.

MELISSA

A good episode of Metalsomething and the Fuzzy Friends? I don't know how you're going to fit that in-

MIKE

No, I've got a different series now. I call it Mike and Melissa. Guess what it's about?

MELISSA

About... us? You're making a series with little old me in it???

MIKE

Sure. I mean, tonight you and me had an interesting little story. I think people might want to hear it.

MELISSA

Yeah, but... that was YOUR story. I only told you what I would have done.

MIKE

Yeah, well I probably wouldn't have stopped to listen to that guy if it weren't for you. I was almost lost in misanthropy towards all those... STUPID COLLEGE BRATS, but you reminded me that not everyone's like that.

MELISSA

So... I've had an impact on you?

MIKE

Well of course! You aren't JUST a sex fantasy to me, you know.

MELISSA

Mike, I love you!

MIKE

I love you, babe!

Big ol' kiss!

MELISSA

You know, I still owe you your Halloween treat...

MIKE

Is it candy corn? APPLE FLAVORED candy corn?

MELISSA

Even better!

MIKE

EVEN BETTER?!?!

MELISSA

EVEN BETTER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Makin' out time! I lean back in my chair.

MIKE

Mel... we should move to my-

We fall backwards in my office chair!

MELISSA

You clumsy dumbo driver!

MIKE

Man, YOU pushed us back!!!

scene 5- int. mike's imagination, may 23rd, 2011, ???

MEL and I are in the place where we talk about the stuff. You know that place.

MIKE

So today on Mike's Moral Compass we're reflecting on the events of last Halloween. To recap, Mike gave away $30 to a "homeless" guy named Derrick Brown, AKA Pops, age 51 (or 52). I never did call him, and I haven't run into him on the streets. And as far as I know, I haven't gotten any karma points. SO, did I do the right thing?

MELISSA

Well, that may have been a tad bit too much to give away, considering it's not really your money...

MIKE

Hey, YOU-

MELISSA

BUT on a life lesson standpoint it's obviously revealed that you're not the bitter, heartless haterader that you you seem to think you are.

MIKE

I guess you're right...

MELISSA

Damn straight, sweet pea!

MIKE

But what did he spend the money on?

MELISSA

Meds for his wife... or booze. It doesn't matter at this point! You gave him the benefit of the doubt and you helped a man in need. At the end of the day you're a better person for it.

MIKE

Well... that's pretty cool.

MELISSA

Yes it is! Now, I have a question. Is it morally wrong to be a lazy procrastinator pants?

MIKE

What's that have to do with-

MELISSA

Why'd it take you almost seven months to write this episode?

MIKE

...Thinking about things... you know?

MELISSA

Oh yeah. I can think of one thing. LAZYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYY!!!

MIKE

You're lazy... go home.

MELISSA

I am home, silly tractor.

MIKE

Tractor?

outro sequence!!!

END THE EPISODE IT'S 5:30 IN THE MORNING!!!